

Remarks

The Examiner still rejects claims 13 and 16-24 as being obvious over Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection "Coal Mine Drainage Prediction and Pollution Prevention in Pennsylvania" and, in particular, Figure 7.12 ("the primary reference") in view of US 2005/0211019 to Crundwell. The Examiner, however, now indicates that claim 25 is allowed and that claim 15 would be allowed if amended to include all the features of those claims from which it depends.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of claim 15. Therefore, it is believed that claim 13 and all the claims depending from it are allowable and notification to that effect is requested. In addition, claim 23 has been amended to include the feature of "separately controlling the operation of each of a plurality of heat sources which are positioned at predetermined locations within the confined volume", which is the feature the Examiner indicated as distinguishing the allowed claims from the art.

Applicant believes that the pending claims are allowable and request notification of the same. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant via telephone at (312) 321-4276 if such communication would expedite allowance of this application.

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

Respectfully submitted,

/G. Peter Nichols/
G. Peter Nichols
Registration No. 34,401
Attorney for Applicant